

Application No. 09/808,857
Amendment "A" dated September 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 12, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a server that provides cookies associated with web sites for a client, a method for generating for the client one or more cookies associated with a web site based on requirements defined by the web site such that the web site can generate a web document that has been customized for the client, the method comprising the following:

storing user information at the server that can be used to generate cookies;

registering one or more web sites at the server, wherein registering the web sites includes receiving from each web site cookie requirement information specifying what data fields are expected in cookies submitted from a client to the web site;

storing the cookie requirement information at the server;

transmitting providing, to the client, a list of web sites that have registered with the server, a cookie list to the client, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of generating and providing cookies associated with any of said web sites to the client, and wherein the client, prior to issuing a request for a document from a particular web site, determines whether said particular web site is on the list of web sites provided by the server;

receiving information from the client indicating that the client is accessing a said particular one of the web sites web site, which is registered with the server, and wherein said information is transmitted to the server by the client upon the client determining that the particular web site is on the list of web sites;

accessing cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site;

in response to receiving the information from the client, generating one or more new cookies associated with the particular web site based on the assessed stored cookie requirement information and the stored user information; and

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transmitting the one or more newly generated cookies to the client, wherein the client subsequently transmits the such that the client can transmit the one or more newly generated cookies to the web site to obtain and such that the web site can thereafter transmit to the client a customized web document that has been generated using the one or more cookies.

2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the information received from the client includes a request for one or more cookies corresponding to the particular web site.

3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising, for at least some of the web sites in the cookie list, receiving the cookie requirement information from an administrator of the web site.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 4, further comprising the following:
receiving an indication that a user situation has changed; and
changing the user specific information to reflect the change in the user situation.

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising storing the one or more generated cookies so as to be accessible to the server.

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7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the following:
 - receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site; and
 - transmitting the stored one or more cookies to the client in response to subsequent indication, rather than regenerating the one or more cookies.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the following:
 - receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site;
 - regenerating the one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information; and
 - transmitting the regenerated one or more cookies to the client.

9-13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a server that is to provide cookies associated with web sites to a client, the computer program product for implementing a method for generating for the client one or more cookies associated with a web site based on requirements defined by the web site such that the web site can generate a web document that has been customized for the client, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for implementing the following method recited in claim 1:

causing a cookie list to be transmitted to the client, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with said web sites to the client;

detecting the receipt of information from the client indicating that the client is accessing a particular one of the web sites;

causing cookie requirement information to be accessed specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site;

generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information; and

causing the one or more cookies to be transmitted to the client such that the client can transmit the one or more cookies to the web site and such that the web site can thereafter transmit to the client a customized web document that has been generated using the one or more cookies.

15. (Original) The computer program product as recited in Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable medium is a physical storage media.

16. (Cancelled).

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17. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 16, further comprising computer-executable instructions for implementing the following:

detecting the receipt of an indication that a user situation has changed; and
changing the user specific information to reflect the change in the user situation.

18. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable medium also has stored thereon computer-executable instructions for causing the one or more generated cookies to be stored so as to be accessible to the server.

19. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 18, wherein the computer-readable medium also has stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the following:

detecting the receipt of a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site; and
causing the one or more stored cookies to be transmitted to the client in response to subsequent indication, rather than regenerating the one or more cookies.

20. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable medium also has stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the following

detecting the receipt a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site;
regenerating the one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information; and
causing the one or more regenerated cookies to be transmitted to the client.

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21. (Currently Amended) In a client that is capable of communicating with a server that provides, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the method comprising the following:

providing user information to the server that is stored at the server and that can be used to generate cookies with cookie requirement information that is also stored at the server and that is provided to the server by one or more web sites registered with the server, the cookie requirement information specifying what data fields are expected in cookies submitted from a client to the web site;

receiving a cookie list from the server containing the web sites registered with the server, the cookie list including entries associated with the web sites, wherein the server is capable of generating and providing cookies associated with any of the web site-sites to the client;

initiating a connection to a particular web site;

wherein prior to initiating a connection to the particular web site, determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list;

upon determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list, requesting, from the server, one or more new cookies associated with the particular web site; and

receiving, from the server, the one or more new cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received-new cookies having been generated by the server in response to receiving information from the client indicating that the client is initiating a connection to the particular web site, wherein the server generates the one or more new cookies based on the cookie requirement information and the user information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site.

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22. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the following:

transmitting the one or more received-cookies to the particular web site; and

receiving from the particular web site a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more ~~received cookie~~cookies.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the acts of requesting the one or more cookies and receiving the one or more cookies are conducted without the client transmitting to the server any client information that is to be included in the one or more cookies after determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list.

24. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein accessing the particular web site is being conducted for the first time, such that receiving the one or more cookies is conducted as the client accesses the particular web site for the first time.

25-29. (Cancelled)

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30. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a client that is configured to communicate with a server that is to provide, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, the computer program product for implementing a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for implementing the following method recited in claim 21.:

detecting the receipt of a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with the web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client;

initiating a connection to a particular web site;

determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list;

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site; and

detecting the receipt, from the server, of the one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the server based on cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site.

31. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 30, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises a physical storage medium.

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32. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in Claim 30, wherein the method further comprising comprises the following:

causing the one or more received cookies to be transmitted to the particular web site; and

detecting the receipt, from the particular web site, of a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookies.

33. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the client checks the list of web sites prior to issuing any request for a document from any web site to verify whether said any web site is on the list of web sites.

34. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the client accesses the customized web document without storing any of the one or more newly generated cookies.

35. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein generating the one or more new cookies includes generating a plurality of different cookies for different fields specified in the cookie requirement information with relevant user information.

36. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein generating the one or more new cookies includes generating at least one cookie that combines multiple items of the cookie requirement information and relevant user information.

37. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the server regenerates the one or more cookies each time the client navigates to the web site, and such that the and client and the server do not have to store the one or more cookies.